

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2741

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0771

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ET, US

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED DECISION ON ETHIOPIAN RECOVERY
AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT PASS AID

REF: STATE 008335

1. AS THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED FROM TIME TO TIME, THERE IS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF HERE THAT US AID PROGRAMS TO ETHIOPIA TERMINATED MANY MONTHS AGO. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR THAT THIS VIEW IS HELD NOT ONLY BY ORDINARY ETHIOPIANS BUT BY MANY INTELLIGENT AND FRIENDLY OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRIES. THERE ARE VARIOUS REASONS FOR THE PREVALENCE OF THIS MISCONCEPTION. ONLY ONE US DROUGHT RELIEF SHIPMENT HAS ARRIVED IN RECENT MONTHS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE 279480 THIS WAS NOT PUBLICIZED. FOR MANY MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNATURE OF NEW US-ETHIOPIAN AGREEMENTS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IN THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NOVEMBER 23 EXECUTIONS REPORTS THAT US AID PROGRAMS HAD BEEN TERMINATED SPREAD RAPIDLY AND WERE WIDELY ACCEPTED. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH MILITARY AID HAS BEEN PROGRESSING IN NORMAL FASHION FOR A NUMBER OF WEEKS, THIS IS NOT KNOWN BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR BY MANY MINISTERIAL OFFICIALS.

2. WE BELIEVE IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO REAWAKEN AN AWARENESS
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THAT US AID PROGRAMS ARE PRESENTLY FUNCTIONING. KNOWLEDGE THAT

US AID IS CONTINUING WOULD ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE MANY MODERATE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY CONTENTED THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF US AID PROGRAMS MAKES IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT STRIVE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US. AWARENESS THAT US AID PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY IN OPERATION WOULD ALSO HELP SOMEWHAT TO MITIGATE THE PROBLEM OF INCREASING PERSONAL INSECURITY FOR AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA WHICH WE DISCUSSED YESTERDAY IN ADDIS 0720. ALTHOUGH SUCH AWARENESS WILL CERTAINLY NOT TERMINATE ALL HARASSMENT OF AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA, WE THINK ETHIOPIANS WHO HAVE RECENTLY SEEN OR READ EVIDENCE OF US AID ARE LESS LIKELY TO TAKE HOSTILE ACTION TOWARDS AMERICANS HERE.

3. THE 8 MILLION DOLLAR RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR ETHIOPIA WAS APPROVED IN WASHINGTON MANY WEEKS AGO BUT WE ARE STILL AWAITING AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN THE APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT WITH THE EPMG. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS AUTHORIZATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ALONG WITH APPROVAL TO SEEK MAXIMUM PUBLICITY REGARDING SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT.
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